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§ 117 **Aspidium Thelypteris**, *Swz.*—I have several times found specimens of this fine fern—usually described as pinnate and, by some authors, as bipinnatifid only—that were distinctly bipinnate with pinnatifid divisions, and now Mrs. Rust sends to me, from Syracuse, N. Y., some remarkable specimens that not only are bipinnate, but have the pinnules cut so near to the rachis as to make the fronds appear tripinnate with the divisions again pinnatifid.

The specimens were found growing in the shade of deep woods —probably in a place that remains submerged with water through the winter and early spring months,—and, as usual with this fern when growing in such situations, were wholly barren. The species would not have been readily recognized from these specimens but for the character of the root, and the presence of one or two small fronds. The largest specimen—which measures 20 inches across the lower triangular-shaped divisions—is ternate, and resembles Pteris aquilina in its broadly triangular outline, rigid stipe and stalks; but the root, texture and venation are clearly that of A. Thelypteris.

I am inclined to regard these specimens as an unhealthy condition of the plants rather than as a variety, and take it the explanation of the phenomena is to be found either in the exhaustion of the vital energies of the plants through a lack of some necessary element of food in the soil, or in a change of conditions by which they are surrounded. The roots were particularly weak—not having strength enough to support the fronds in an erect position—and indicate the gradual extinction of the species in a locality where at some time it may have been abundant and vigorous. Possibly, if transplanted to some new locality, they might recover their normal condition; otherwise they will be likely to die out altogether. To test this I have planted two roots, and, if they survive, may be able another season to report results. GEO. E. DAVENPORT.

Boston, *September* 15, 1876.

§ 118. **Notes.**—Having several pots of garden Petunia in my windows, I noticed that many small flies were caught in the glandular hairs of the leaves and stems. I watched the fate of the insects as well as I was able. I never found that any escaped. If they struggled much, the viscid matter of the glands was drawn about and over them, like a web or a tangle of fine roots. Then, after some weeks, the legs and wings gradually disappeared, and finally the trunk, leaving the heads for a long time, nor can I say what finally became of these. The hairs of the plant before contact with the insect were of pellucid green, but, in all cases, became discolored for a little distance around the insect, turning brown but not withering. The insects were from one to two-twelfths of an inch in length. Once a much larger fly was caught and struggled in vain for half a day finally dying. But I lost sight of him. I am not able to form an opinion as to whether the insects were absorbed by the glands, but of the facts reported I am quite sure.

Is it unusual for the Ericaceæ to be spontaneously propagated by seed at the present time? I have lived many years in near neighborhood to Kalmia, Azalea, Epigæa, Chimaphila, Gaultheria, Pyrola and the Vaccinieæ without discovering a seedling plant. Is this fine old family decadent? One does not like to think so; it is so cleanly, fastidious, retiring and unweedy in character, and no changling, but adhering with precision to its lovely forms of flower, and its sculpturesque fruit.

Circæa Lutetiana with red sepals was found by Mrs. M. H. Dunton, in Westminister, Vt., on September 30th. The locality was a clearing in the woods where the leafage was extremely bright, and all the vegetation seemed charged with color. Even the involucral scales of the Asters were bordered and tipped with purple. In the same locality, and at the same time, Gaultheria procumbens was found in flower, and in one case the little white bells were clustered above the bright berries on the same stem.

Ann E. Brown.

Bellows Falls, Vt.

§ 119. **Spurious Fungi.**—A suspicion, which we have long entertained, that the objects on leaves of *Solidago* and *Aster*, described as fungi by Schweinitz under the names of *Rhytisma Solidaginis* and *R. Asteris*, were of insect origin has recently been confirmed by Prof. Riley, to whom we sent specimens. He writes us that they (at least the ones on Solidago) are *galls* made by *Cecidomyia carbonifera*, O. S. " It is a very common gall and white when fresh. The *Cecidomyia* larva is much infested with parasites which are more often bred from the gall than the true maker."

W. R. Gerard.

§ 120. **Publications.**—1. *L'age d'un arbre a-t-il une influence sur l'epoque moyenne de sa feuillaison?*, by A. De Candolle. In studying this problem M. De Candolle availed himself of two methods : The first was the comparison of trees, young and old, of the same species, and in the same locality. In this he was assisted by competent observers; M. Decaime, at Paris, and M. Caruel, at Pisa. He finds, as the result of this method, that it gives some probability to the idea that the appearance of the leaves is somewhat retarded as the tree advances in years, but the evidence, he thinks, is insufficient. His second method was that of prolonged observations on one and the same tree. There are two sets of these observations: the one on two Horse-chestnuts in Geneva, the other on a Grape-vine at Ostend. A careful record of the earliest foliation of the Geneva trees had been kept by different observers: in the case of one for 68, and of the other for 57 years. The vine has been observed for 33 years. After a careful discussion of the records M. De Candolle concludes: 1. That for the majority of arborescent species, the horse-chestnut in particular, there is no reason to suppose that, *ceteris paribus*, the foliation is advanced or retarded with years, at least in the case of trees from 50 to 180 years of age. 2. For some species, and according to the observations of M. Caruel by the first method, and in the care of the vine of Ostend, the foliation appears to be retarded by age; but the first method is unsatisfactory, and the vine was observed for a shorter time than the two trees, and was, besides, subject to pruning and other culture.